



DATE: March 15, 2023

TIME: 1:00 – 2:05 pm

LOCATION: 100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032

Maryland Statewide Interoperability Radio Control Board

Quarterly Public Meeting

▪ Voting Members in Attendance

- Norm Farley (DoIT)
- Wayne Darrell (Kent County)
- Chris Holland (MDOT)
- Mayor Craig Moe (NCR)
- Charles Summers (WAGIN)
- Tony Rose (Charles County)
- Jim Hock (MSP)
- Bud Frank (GoHS)
- Dr Ted Delbridge (MIEMSS)

▪ Board Support Staff

- Jen Zambito
- Brandon Renehan
- Cindy Cole
- Justin Ellingwood
- Pat King
- Curt Andrich

▪ Not Attended

- Secretary Savage (Represented by Norm Farley)
- Lieutenant Colonel Roland Butler Jr (Represented by Jim Hock)
- Clay Stamp (Talbot County)

Call to Order – 1:00 pm

Review Minutes from 12/7/2022– Norman Farley

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the minutes from the December 7, 2022 meeting.

Moved – Chris Holland

Second – Charles Summers

The vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain – 0

New Business – Norman Farley

Proposed New Interoperable Users

Lancaster County, PA:

Representing Lancaster County was Communications Specialist, Brad Shenk. Lancaster has ~7000 UHF radios county-wide; the southern county fire departments would like interoperability with mostly Cecil and Harford Counties. Initially there will be ~6 TDMA radios for fire/EMS units.

Proposed Motion: The Radio Control Board approves the application of Lancaster County, PA to become a Communications Interoperability User on Maryland FiRST and authorizes the Chairman to conclude the appropriate MOU with Lancaster County, PA.

Motion – Tony Rose

Second – Chris Holland

The vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

Yea – All

Nay – 0

Abstain - 0

FY 24 Capital Budget Update

Senate and House Capital budget hearings, for a \$18.44M request, were successfully completed in February. The budget includes 4 New RF Sites (part of the Coverage Improvement Program), additional fiber to improve backhaul connectivity, geographically diverse control sites and in-building amplifiers (BDAs) for schools and other critical infrastructure which will require collaboration with the counties.

Governor's All Call Event

Phase 5 will go live April 19, 2023. As a celebration of the completion of the original 5-phase MD FiRST project, DoIT has initiated planning an All-Call event for the May/June timeframe with the Governor's office. This event will include MD FiRST state and county user agencies from across the state and will involve fire, police, EMS, and DNR boats on the water. The current concept is for the event to occur on the waterfront at the Annapolis City Dock with the Governor making 5-10 radio check calls to all corners of the State. This will involve Radio Control Board participation.

System Performance Report – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented the system performance report statistics. There were no action items based on his brief.

Project Status Update – Jen Zambito / Brandon Renehan

Jen presented the project status which included updates for Phase 5; T1 to Ethernet conversion for Phases 1-4; and the Coverage Improvement Program (CIP). Of significant note, Phase 5 is set to go live April 19, 2023.

Brandon provided an update to the CIP Existing Site Enhancements efforts. Of significant note was the improved coverage obtained in Worcester County by raising the antenna height and changing the antenna to omnidirectional at the Klej Grange RF site.

Operations Status – Brandon Renehan

Brandon presented the operations status covering the Critical Connect and Smart Connect pilot program, and the potential cellular interference problems being experienced from Verizon cellular devices (Band 13) and FirstNet tower sites (Band 14). The MD FIRST team has had discussions with regional and national partners and they are seeing similar issues. Motorola is assembling technical resources to work with MD FIRST to evaluate these and other potential mitigation options.

System Managers Committee Status and System Users Committee Updates – Brandon Renehan

Brandon reported on the results of the System Managers Committee meeting held on March 2, 2023. Managers were asked to report all interference and coverage issues from all our users.

Old Business - Norman Farley

During the December 7, 2022 Board meeting a Board member requested that a MD FIRST recovery and redundancy capabilities brief be presented to the Board for the March 2023 meeting. Brandon presented the requested brief. Highlights include that MD FIRST was designed from the ground up with redundancy and resiliency baked into the overall system architecture. Redundancy categories discussed included equipment, backhaul, backup power, and LMR coverage.

Closing

Proposed Motion - I move that we adjourn and reconvene on June 21, 2023.

Moved – Chris Holland

Second – Charlie Summers

The vote was taken, passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Director of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Norman J. Farley

6/27/2023

Chairwoman of Board APPROVAL:

(Signature & Date)

Katherine M. Savage

Jul 7, 2023